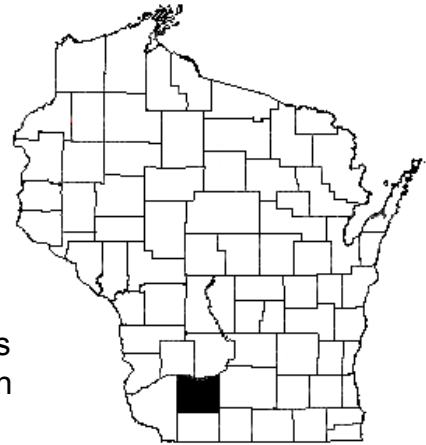




# Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

## Iowa County



### **County characteristics**

- 761 sq. mi. Population 22,780 (2000 census)
- north half of county farmland/woodland; south half former prairie, now farmland, Wisconsin River backwaters
- Waters: 6 flowage lakes totaling 332 acres, 76 miles of WI River, 112 miles of trout streams and 160 miles of bass streams
- 4,765 licensed anglers and 4,101 hunters and trappers reside in Iowa County



Oaks in winter at Blackhawk Recreation Area, a public hunting and fishing property

### **State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing**

- 12,591 acres of state land including wildlife and fisheries areas
- 6,840 acres of State Parks/Natural Areas
- Nearly 20,000 acres open to hunting

Our Wildlife and Fisheries lands are operated with license dollars. You can locate DNR properties for all your outdoor activities at:

[http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr\\_land\\_mapping.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_land_mapping.html)

### **Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you**

- 2 Wildlife biologists; 1 Wildlife technician, 2 Fisheries biologists; 3 Conservation Wardens; 2 Customer Service Representatives, 1 Lands and Facilities technician; Office, 1500 N. Johns Street, Dodgeville, 53533 These staff members also serve portions of Sauk, Lafayette, Richland, Grant, Dane, and Green Counties

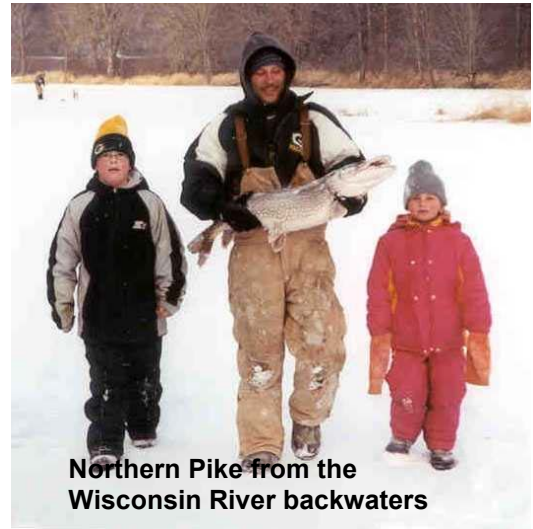
### **Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars**

- Establish and maintain grassland and wetland habitat for ducks, pheasants, and other wildlife species on public as well as private lands.
- Established an aggressive chronic wasting disease (CWD) management program in southwest Wisconsin: over 18,000 deer sampled, identified 259 positive cases, and significantly reduced the county's deer population since the discovery of CWD in Wisconsin in 2002
- Preserve and restore original prairie remnants on public and private lands. Work closely with NRCS to promote CRP.
- Conservation Wardens apprehended two separate groups of poachers who were responsible for the senseless shooting of over 100 deer, many of which were left to rot. In spite of liberal regulations associated with CWD management, none of these were tagged and most were shot at night with the aid of artificial lights.
- Conservation Wardens apprehended a significant number of hunters engaged in the illegal practice of hunting deer and turkeys over bait which is especially important to prevent the deer-to-deer contact believed to be a factor in the spread of CWD.

- Establish and maintain warm and coldwater habitat improvement projects on area smallmouth bass and trout streams
- Monitor sportfisheries county-wide for stocking evaluations, population status, harvest recommendations, and habitat improvement
- Manage DNR land by posting public hunting and access sites, build and maintain parking areas.
- Monitor local wildlife populations of ducks, geese, turkeys, pheasants, grouse, woodcock, deer, frogs, grassland birds, and eagles. Last year there were over 10,000 Iowa County registration records on deer, turkey, and furbearers
- Respond to hundreds of wildlife damage and nuisance complaints and monitor wildlife diseases including CWD and West Nile Virus. Issue 20 permits or more each year to control deer damage.
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations and civic groups including Annual Turkey and Pheasant "Learn to Hunt" programs

### ***Iowa County Conservation Snapshots***

- New boat ramps developed at Arena on the Wisconsin River and Blackhawk Lake
- Wardens responded to 18 Hotline calls
- 9 DNR license agents supported
- 10 Deer and Turkey registration stations set up to provide for 4 distinct seasonal registration needs



**Northern Pike from the Wisconsin River backwaters**

### ***Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary***

- 13,000 walleye and muskellunge stocked into 3 lakes
- 55,900 brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, and walleye stocked into 29 streams
- Stock (pre-2003) an average 2,000 pheasants/year on Avoca and Blackhawk Wildlife Areas.
- Provide 500+ pheasant chicks to Avoca Rod & Gun Club annually

### ***County Success Stories***

- Iowa County was the site of an original pheasant F1 project where wild-strain pheasants originating from the state of Iowa were introduced to southern Iowa County. This highly successful reintroduction project has been replicated in other CRP/Grassland areas in Wisconsin.
- Statewide, nearly 200,000 spring and 50,000 fall turkey permits are now available, thanks to translocation efforts during the 80's and 90's when Iowa County turkeys were trapped to provide turkeys to suitable range throughout Wisconsin.

### ***Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities***

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
  - Fish and wildlife stocking programs: Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management